

**Robert Stewart to George Washington, January 25,
1760, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of
America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

FROM CAPTAIN ROBERT STEWART.

WILLIAMSBURG Janry. 25th 1760

MY DEAR SIR

When I recd. the Inclos'd I propos'd to have done myself the pleasure of delivering it with my own hands, and in person return'd my unfeign'd thanks for your Friendly & Affectionate Epistle by Finnie, which had taken the Tour of Fort Cumberland, Pittsburg. Legonier &Ca. before I recd. it at Winchester, But deferr'd waiting on you at Mount Vernon till after I had visited this City for the two following reasons vizt. Ist. Colo. Byrd was of opinion that your prior applications in my behalf back'd by his subsequent ones in the most pressing Terms would take place of any he had made in favour of Colo. P ---2d. as Finnie for many reasons had little room to expect a continuation of his, he would take a small matter for it, tho' I had no opinion of the Ist., the 2d. carried a shew of probability, therefore hasten'd hither, But found both equally ill grounded, and learn'd that I have no chance happen what will, as 4 oys. besides P were mention'd as having a prior Right, so that after having spent much Time & thought in concerting a thousand different difficult Plans for steering thro' the remainder of an unfortunate Life I find myself reduc'd to the sad alternative of being & continuing a Sub: (than which nothing can to me be more horrible) or running some risque of making my best Friends suffer by using their aid towards the Purchass of a Compy., and as ten thousand concurring circumstances Demonstrates the Noble motives that actuated you to make me the Generous offer of your Friendly assistance, I concluded the last to be

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the most eligible I have therefore wrote to Colo. Byrd & to Majr. Gates to give in my Name at Head Quarters for the Purchass of a Compy. or Capt. Lieuty. and in cas either should come as low down amongst the Subs. as Ime [I am] to transmit me the earliest Intelligence of it, in which Event Colo. Hunter has engag'd to negotiate the money part provided he can have proper Security of being soon reimburs'd. I have told them I would prefer the Capt. Lieuty. as Rank is the principal Object of my ambition and as I could accomplish the Payment of it without the aid of Friends, But if good Fortune of which I have hitherto enjoy'd so small share should bring a Compy. as low down in the Line I beg you'll be so good as to Inclose me a Letter for Colo. Hunter informing him that in case I can have an oppy. of Purchasing a Compy. you will pay him £300 Sterg. which my dear Colo. is a great Sum But as my future Happiness depends upon it and when I solemnly Declare which I now do by every thing thats Sacred to a Christian and an Officer that no method consistent with Hon — will be unassay'd to reimburse you the Principle & Interest as soon as possible and to prevent your suffering in case I should fall I would fain hope you will not hesitate to grant this great favour of which and the manifold others you have conferr'd upon me I shall ever retain the most Just and gratefull sense — I would say much on these Subjects but my Heart is full — I fear I'm too unreasonable —

Please Direct for me at Petersburg where I Recruit — I'm told the Assembly will sit in about six weeks hence against wch. Time I shall be here to wait your arrival Be so good as to present my Respectfull Complmts. to your Lady and allow me to Subscribe myself

With the highest Esteem and most perfect Regard My Dear Colonel Your unalterably Affectionate & Most Obliged hble. Servant ROBERT STEWART